

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

/070 W

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R 171402Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3378

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0719

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: STRIKES IN METALLURGICAL & RELATED INDUSTRIES

REF: JOHANNESBURG 0604

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS TOTAL OF ABOUT 3,000 BLACK WORKERS IN 11 ENGINEERING OR CONSTRUCTION FIRMS (FOUR ON EAST RAND, SIX AT WELCOM IN FREE STATE, AND ONE IN DURBAN) STRUCK JULY 15 IN SUPPORT OF DEMANDS THAT EMPLOYERS PUT RECENTLY NEGOTIATED 7CENT PER HOUR WAGE INCREASE (REFTEL) INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, I.E., NOT WAIT FOR GAZETTING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 2.

2. IN COMMENTING ON STRIKES DIRECTOR OF STEEL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES' FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA ANNOUNCED THERE WAS NOTHING TO PREVENT INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS FROM IMPLEMENTING INCREASES AT ONCE AND REVEALED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT SOME EMPLOYERS BEGAN PAYING NEW RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1.

3. COMMENT: COORDINATED WALKOUTS IN SUPPORT OF APPARENTLY AGREED-UPON DEMAND DRAMATIZES RAPIDITY WITH WHICH BLACK WORKERS BECOMING EFFECTIVELY AWARE OF NECESSITY FOR ORGANIZATION AND SOLIDARITY IN PURSUING THEIR INTERESTS.

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Message Attributes

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